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House Bill _____
By _____

Senate No. SB0064
By Womack

AN ACT relative to wilderness camps owned or operated by a
community mental health center.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. For purposes of this act "wilderness camp" means a program whose components include day treatment, group therapy, adventure activities, independent living skills training, problem-solving and decision making education, values and leadership training, family and individual therapy, and organizational and communication skills education in a wilderness setting.

SECTION 2. The following requirements apply to any wilderness camp owned or operated by a community mental health center:

(1) No state funds received by a community mental health center may be used to provide wilderness camping experience.

(2) A community mental health center may not provide treatment or wilderness camping experiences to patients in a facility which is located outside the county in which the main office of the community mental health center is located.

(3) A community mental health center may not maintain a permanent program which provides wilderness camping experience outside the county in which the main office of the community mental health center is located.

(4) If a community mental health center owns or operates a wilderness camp which is located in a county other than the county in which the main office of the community mental health center is located, the residents of the county in which the wilderness camp is located shall have a statutory right to be a participant in the decisions made in the operation of the camp, including but not limited to staffing of the camp, the number and type of camp participants, the types of camp activities, camp perimeter security and the safety of the community.

A local board shall be appointed for a two (2) year term by the county legislative body of the county in which the camp is located to ensure community participation. The local board shall consist of not less than five (5) residents of the county living within a five (5) mile radius of the perimeter of the wilderness camp.

SECTION 3. A community mental health center which fails to comply with all the requirements of this act shall be prohibited from owning or operating a wilderness camp.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.